

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Ryota SUGIMOTO

Application No.: **09/870,672**

Filing Date: June 1, 2001

For: IMPLANTABLE TUBULAR DEVICE

Art Unit: 3764

Examiner: Mathew, Fenn C.

Attorney Ref. No.: MA3005-0031

Confirmation No.: 8651

Commissioner for Patents  
MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

Sir:

**COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT  
OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Notices of Allowance and Allowability dated January 12, 2010 for the above-captioned patent application. An Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance was appended to the Notice of Allowability. Applicant has the following comments.

While the claimed combinations are patentable over the art for at least some of the reasons presented therein, including those described in the BPAI decision, the claimed combinations are patentable for many different and/or additional reasons. More specifically, the patentability of the claimed combinations is not limited to (nor necessarily relies on) the particular subset of features identified in the Statement, but rather it is the entire combination of elements and/or processes in the claims, each taken as a whole, that are patentable over the art, both taken alone and in hypothetical combination.

**PATENT**  
Attorney Docket No. MA3005-0031  
Application No. 09/870,672

If additional fees are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge Applicant's representative's Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Cermak Kenealy Vaidya & Nakajima LLP**

By:           /Ajit J. Vaidya/            
Ajit J. Vaidya  
Reg. No. 43,214

Dated: March 4, 2010

**CUSTOMER NO. 39083**  
**Cermak Kenealy Vaidya & Nakajima LLP**  
515 East Braddock Rd.  
Alexandria, Virginia. 22314  
Tel.: (703) 778-6610  
Fax: (703) 652-5101